

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00612 221219Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01

DHA-02 AID-05 PC-05 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /098 W

-----221222Z 065441 /10

O R 220808Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5990

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0612

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA, UN

SUB: SWAPO RAID INTO OVAMBO

REF: CAPE TOWN 0605

1. PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION GAVE TOP SPACE EVENING
APRIL 20 AND 21ST TO THE ABDUCTION OF 126 SCHOOL CHILDREN
FROM THE CATHOLIC MISSION STATION AT ENAMULENGE, LOCATED
ABOUT 80 KM EAST OF RUACANA AND SOME 15 MILES SOUTH OF
THE BORDER BETWEEN OVAMBOLAND AND ANGOLA. SWAPO
GUERRILLAS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN THE GROUP, WHICH
AT FIRST INCLUDED THREE WHITE PRIESTS, ACROSS THE BORDER
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INTO ANGOLA. IN A BRIEF SKIRMISH WITH SAG SECURITY
FORCES, THE PRIESTS AND TWO CHILDREN MANAGED TO
ESCAPE.

2. SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 20,
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID (TRANSLATION FROM AFRIKAANS):
"MR. SPEAKER, THE HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION KNOWS THAT

I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE ALL AFTERNOON AND EVENING. AS A RESULT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BECOME COMPLETELY INFORMED ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS. ACTUALLY, THIS IS A MATTER ON WHICH MY COLLEAGUE, THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WILL REPORT WHEN HIS BUDGET IS DISCUSSED TOMORROW. I CAN NATURALLY SAY THAT IT IS A SHOCKING INCIDENT WHICH ONCE AGAIN SHOULD BE A WARNING FOR THE WESTERN WORLD, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO CRITICIZE SA IN REGARD TO HER MILITARY PRESENCE IN SWA. I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER OF OVAMBO HAS MADE A COMPLETE STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT. THE MATTER IS IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF THE SECURITY FORCES, WHICH ARE DOING EVERYTHING NECESSARY. TWO PRIESTS AND SOME CHILDREN HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT BACK. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, IT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW THESE PEOPLE, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FREEDOM FIGHTERS BY CHURCH LEADERS AND OTHERS, USE CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. CHIEF MINISTER OF OVAMBOLAND PASTOR CORNELIUS NDJOBA TOLD THE OVAMBO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THAT HE WAS APPEALING TO ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO TO ENSURE THE SAFE RETURN OF THE CHILDREN, AND ASKING THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CIVILIZED WORLD TO INTERVENE. "IF THERE IS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN POWER IN ANGOLAN I BELIEVE THE CHILDREN WILL BE SENT BACK". NDJOBA PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO OBTAIN THE SAFE RETURN OF THE CHILDREN. HE TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT HE PLANNED

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TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AT THE SCHEDULED APRIL 22 MEETING WITH TURNHALLE DELEGATES. IF THE CHILDREN HAD NOT BEEN RETURNED BY THEN, NDJOBA REPORTEDLY SAID, HE WOULD DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED INTERVENTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCES.

BOWDLER

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Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SF, WA, UN, SWAPO, (VORSTER, BALHAZAR JOHANNES)
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